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TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE February 24, 2022

SB92 An Act Permitting Ten-Year Contractual Periods For the Transportation of School Children in Zero Admission School Buses

CASBO offers the following comments on SB92.

CASBO acknowledges that the proposed language to provide for ten-year transportation contracts for zero emission school transportation vehicles is voluntary. We also support a goal for zero emission vehicles. However, we have several questions about the economics, logistics and timing of this concept.

- We have seen very little about the specifics regarding upfront costs, ongoing maintenance and operation costs, projected savings and break even analyses for such vehicles.
- How will the need for new infrastructure for charging stations be addressed? Who will pay for them?
- Many school districts are involved in five-year contracts for regular buses. Some are in the process of bidding as we speak. How will these issues be addressed?
- A ten-year contract is a very long-time frame and involves added risks.
- What do bus carriers say about these contracts? Will they be able to make a reasonable profit from them?
- We understand that many carriers rent space and there is uncertainty as to whether landlords will comply with charging requirements.
- Will state or federal funding be provided to support this concept?

These are just a few of the many questions that need to be answered on this important topic before proceeding. We recommend that a task force be established to explore fully the concept of 10-year contracts for zero emission school transportation vehicles and develop a sustainable plan for its implementation. CASBO, with its long-term involvement in negotiating bus contracts, volunteers to serve on such a task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

About us: The Connecticut Association of School Business Officials (CASBO) is a non-profit professional association that represents school business officials throughout the State of Connecticut. School business officials work closely with school boards, school superintendents, administrators, staff, public officials, and communities; and we are responsible for most aspects of school business and operations.